

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1625

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, CG

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF IMF CONSULTATIONS IN ZAIRE

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED VISIT OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND TO ZAIRE WAS SPARSE AND BLAND.

2. BASIC IMF TEAM ARRIVED ON FEB. 24 UNDER LEADERSHIP PF MR. RUSSO. THE LOCAL PRESS OF 25TH SHOWED PICTURES OF BANQUE DU ZAIRE SPOKESMEN. IT QUOTED BOZ GOVERNOR SAMBWA AS SAYING THAT WHILE PRESENT VISIT CAME WITHIN FRAMWORK OF REGULAR ANNUAL VISITS BEGUN IN 1973, ITS TIMING WAS FORTUNATE IN THAT ZAIRE WAS CURRENTLY "CONFRONTED WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BORN IN CRISIS OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM AND ACCENTUATED BY HIGH PRICE OF FUELS." ALL THIS SAMBWA SAW TAKING PLACE AT MOMENT IN TIME WHEN TERMS OF TRADE FOR NON-PETROLEUM PRODUCING THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WERE DETERIORATING ANYHOW. HE SAID IT WAS FOR THESE REASONS THAT HE HAD ADVOCATED SETTING AS GOAL OF PRESENT CONSULTATIONS "ANALYSIS OF ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC SITUATION WITH AIM OF PREDICITING ITS FINANCIAL HEALTH AND FINDING REMEDIES WHICH COULD BE APPLIED."

3. ARRIVAL OF IMF ADMINISTRATOR ANTOINE YAMEOGO AND IMF AFRICAN DEPARTMENT HEAD DINI TOWARD
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END OF TEAM'S VISIT ON MARCH 7 DID NOT GO UN-

NOTICED BY PRESS. HOWEVER, COVERAGE WAS LIMITED TO YAMEOGO'S VAGUE STATEMENT THAT IMF WAS THERE TO DISCUSS "STATE OF THOSE AFFAIRS WITH WHICH IT WAS CHARGED AND RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS."

4. PRESS OF FRIDAY, MARCH 7, REPORTED THAT CONSULTATIONS HAD BEEN CLOSED AFTERNOON BEFORE BY GOVERNOR OF BOZ, IN PRESENCE OF STATE COMMISSIONERS FOR FINANCE AND FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY AS WELL AS YAMEOGO AND DINI. THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON THAT OCCASION SAID, "THE DISCUSSIONS, WHICH DEALT PRIMARILY WITH THE RECENT EVOLUTION OF THE ZAIRIAN ECONOMY, TOOK PLACE IN A CLIMATE OF FRANK COLLABORATION AND LED TO A FRUITFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS." SAME PAPERS CARRIED PICUTRE OF MOBUTU RECEIVING DINI IN HIS OFFICES.
HINTON

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